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"Why Didn't They Tell Us?"

Cliff Kincaid

Begin & Stansfield Turner Warnings of Possible Communist Takeover of Iran Ignored By Big Media

CIA Director Stansfield Turner has charged that the Soviet Union is infiltrating agents into Iran "to undermine the country they are ostensibly trying to court." Testifying before the Senate Energy Committee on April 22, Turner said: "There are increasing signs of sabotage in the oil fields, and discontent by the workers." *Turner's remarks on Iran, ignored by Washington's dailies, and the New York Times* came on the same day that the shah's sister, Princess Ashraf Pahlavi, predicted that Iran might fall to the communists. In an interview reported by UPI, she said: "Bani-Sadr is a stupid man. His thesis—which he still hasn't finished writing—was to show how Marxism and Islam could go together. It cannot, but the country may fall into the communists' hands under this stupid Bani-Sadr." In the interview, which was ignored by the Big Media, Pahlavi also said: "My brother and I feel betrayed. After 37 years of friendship with the U.S. to have the Carter Administration treat my brother the way it has and try to deal with Khomeini and the other murderers, yes, we feel betrayed."

Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin has also raised the possibility of a communist takeover of Iran. On ABC's "Issues and Answers" program on April 20, Begin said: "... the Soviet Union is in Afghanistan, and through Baluchistan, they can reach the Indian Ocean in no time, and there is no force to stop them. Iran itself could become a communist state with the Tudeh (communist) Party, the best organized group waiting for what is ... the revolutionary situation." Begin said that the U.S. should consider stationing conventional military forces "in every region where there is the possibility of Soviet expansionism." *Begin's remarks, ignored by the New York Times and the Washington Star, were reported by the Washington Post on page 22.*

Sen. Barry Goldwater has accused President Carter of playing politics with the hostage crisis, saying that the president should have gotten tough

with the "idiots" in Iran five months ago. Speaking to the Nevada State Republican convention on April 19, Goldwater said U.S. foreign policy is "in shambles. The president doesn't know where he's been, where he is now and where he's going." The senator said Carter was the most "conniving, twisting, snake-like president" in U.S. history. *Goldwater's remarks, reported by UPI, were ignored by the Washington dailies and the New York Times.*

President Zia of Pakistan has called on the U.S. to take stronger actions against the Soviet Union for its invasion of Afghanistan. At a news conference in Salisbury, Zimbabwe, on April 17, Zia said the U.S. "should have played a much more significant role over the Soviet intervention, which I'm sorry to say it did not." He added: "... practical steps are more significant than mere statements." *Zia's remarks, ignored by the Washington Star, were reported by the New York Times on page 6 and by the Washington Post on page 45.*

Science fiction writer Isaac Asimov has said that failure by the U.S. to proceed with nuclear power "would put us in an even worse position vis a vis the rest of the world and energy than we're in now." In a speech at Tufts University on April 17, Asimov said: "Much of Europe is charging ahead to develop it. The only place where there is any consideration whatsoever to abandoning it is in the United States." *Asimov's remarks were ignored by the Washington dailies and the New York Times.* Meanwhile, a top official in the Soviet Union, which has no anti-nuclear lobby, has revealed that the U.S.S.R. will rely on nuclear energy for one-third of its energy supply by 1990. Artem Troitski told the Soviet TASS news agency that the Soviet Union will be the only major industrialized nation to meet its own energy needs. Troitski's remarks, reported by UPI on April 22, were ignored by the Big Media.